

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Syria/Iraq

DATE DISTR. 28 Oct. 1949

SUBJECT Position of Syrian Army Concerning Reports
of Syro-Iraqi Union

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

25X1X 1. [REDACTED] there is growing adverse criticism of Colonel Sami Hinnawi, Syrian Army Chief of Staff, among the officers of the Damascus garrison and at the Army training camp at Qatanah. The officers are angered at the recent appointment of three Iraqi Military Attachés to Damascus, and source states that these Syrian officers are said to be contemplating a coup d'état to remove Hinnawi as well as Asad Tallas, Director General of the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in order to prevent a Syro-Iraqi union.*

25X1X 2. [REDACTED] the most outspoken opponents of Hinnawi:

Lieutenant Colonel Adib Shishakli, Commanding Officer of the First Brigade; and his Chief of Staff, Captain Kabbani.

Major Nazmah, of the Qatanah training camp.

Major Shawqat, Commanding Officer of the First Infantry Battalion.

Major Shawish, of the Transport Directorate.

3. [REDACTED] the above officers prefer the return of former President Quwwatli to a regency under Iraq.

4. [REDACTED] those Christian officers who have been deprived of important posts also are in opposition to Hinnawi. Among these is Lieutenant Colonel Tawfiq Bashur, second in command of the Third Brigade.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment.

the Syrian Army has told the Government that it will not permit Syrian union with Iraq unless Iraq throws off British control and assumes full independence of action. The Army also has told the Syrian Government, according to sources, that Iraq in addition must get rid of the Hashimite dynasty. These sources state that the position of the Syrian Government, accordingly, is much weakened and that its dissolution is expected.

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